

CLAIMS

1. A method of optimising connection set-up times between nodes in a centrally controlled network; the method comprising sending a path set-up request from a node  
5 to a controller; if a connection cannot be made at a requested time, not sending a no acknowledgement message, but only sending an acknowledgment message from the controller to the node, when the network connection has been established.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the node implements a queuing system  
10 whilst waiting for the acknowledgement, such that IP packets received at the node whilst awaiting a connection are discarded in accordance with the queuing system.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the queuing scheme comprises one of first in first out (FIFO), last in first out (LIFO), or weighted fair queuing (WFQ).  
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4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the WFQ scheme selectively dismisses internet protocol (IP) packets having a lower priority in order to store more recently arrived IP packets having a higher priority.
- 20 5. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the network is an optical network.